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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/977,202	10/16/2001	Marc Charbonneau	12-69 US	3583
25319	7590	07/18/2005	EXAMINER	
FREEDMAN & ASSOCIATES 117 CENTREPOINTE DRIVE SUITE 350 NEPEAN, ONTARIO, K2G 5X3 CANADA			PARTHASARATHY, PRAMILA	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2136	

DATE MAILED: 07/18/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/977,202

Applicant(s)

CHARBONNEAU, MARC

Examiner

Pramila Parthasarathy

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 May 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is in response to the communication filed on May 13, 2005. Claims 1-14 and 18 – 20 have been amended. No new Claims have been added. Claims 1 – 23 are pending.

Response to Remarks/Arguments

Specification

2. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

The following title is suggested: Method for securely supporting password change.

Examiner, upon request from the Applicant, carefully has considered the material of paragraph 36 and 37 of the present application and found no justification for the current title. Instant application disclosure of paragraph 36 and 37 directs to “..changing of passwords of several systems/files/applications simultaneously.” and “.. a password entered in accordance of the above described process is optionally long and complex since there is no need to remember the password.” Applicant is directed to Microsoft Computer Dictionary (Page 483, Fifth Edition) for definition of Single sign-on, and is provided here, for immediate reference.

Single sign-on: A system enabling a user to enter one name and password to log onto different computer systems or web sites. Single sign-on is also available for enterprise systems so a user with a domain account can log on to a network once, using a password or smart card, and thereby gain access to any computer in the domain.

Instant application discloses "a method of securely supporting password change ..", paragraph 28 to 32 and 34 to 40. Examiner would like to remind the applicant that the title should reflect and be indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

3. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: Too many typographical mistakes and spacing problems. For example on Page 1, paragraph [0003], replace "company' ss" with "company's" and paragraph [0004], replace "password 's" with "password".

Objection to the disclosure is maintained.

Appropriate and careful corrections throughout specification are required.

4. Applicant's remarks/arguments filed on May 13, 2005, with respect to amended Claims 1 – 14 and 18 – 20, have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Referring to the previous Office action, Examiner had cited relevant portions of the references as a means to illustrate the system as taught by the prior art. As a means of providing further clarification as to what is taught by the references used in the

first office action, Examiner has expanded the teachings for comprehensibility while maintaining the same grounds of rejection of the claims.

5. Claims 1 – 7, 11, 18 – 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Bellemore et al. (U.S. Patent Number 5,944,825, hereinafter “Bell”). Claims 8 – 10 and 12 – 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bell in view of Novoa et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,636,973, hereinafter “Novoa”).

6. Bell teaches a method for providing security and password mechanism to a system, wherein passwords must meet certain criteria including expiration time, password security and preventing previously used passwords.

Nova teaches the process of changing a password preferably using the current password (i.e., the password about to be changed) or the user's template value generated during log on as a seed value to generate a random alphanumeric string (password).

7. Regarding amended independent Claims 1, 5, 7 and 20, Applicant agrees that Bell teaches a system that receives passwords and determines if they are acceptable prior to providing them to a password database, but argues that the distinction between the prior art and the instant application is that “storing data indicative of the new password in a database other than a password database”, “providing a prompt to a user when an operation to change password is detected”, “storing the new password in a

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database independent of the change password operation and the data where the changed password is stored”, “detecting a password change operation in execution on a system; displaying to user a prompt for authentication information in response to detecting the change password operation in execution and other than occurring as an operation of the change password operation” and “automatically generating new password”. These arguments are not persuasive.

Bell discloses a method for providing security and password mechanisms in a database system. Passwords used by a client must meet certain criteria, such as, the password must not be identical to the previous passwords used within a threshold period of time. Furthermore, Bell discloses that access is blocked for clients whose password has not been changed for a threshold period of time. Bell teaches “storing data indicative of the new password in a database other than a password database” (Column 4 lines 33 – 42 and Column 6 line 66 – Column 7 line 16), “providing a prompt to a user when an operation to change password is detected” (Column 4 lines 33 – 40 and Column 6 lines 1 – 22), “storing the new password in a database independent of the change password operation and the data where the changed password is stored” (Column 6 lines 11 – 36 and Column 7 lines 4 – 19), “detecting a password change operation in execution on a system; displaying to user a prompt for authentication information in response to detecting the change password operation in execution and other than occurring as an operation of the change password operation (Column 3 lines

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29 – 52 and Column 4 lines 5 – 40)” and “automatically generating new password”
(Column 1 lines 11 – 34 and Column 7 lines 4 – 19).

8. Applicant clearly has failed to explicitly identify specific claim limitations, which would define a patentable distinction over prior arts. Therefore, the examiner respectfully asserts that cited prior art does teach or suggest the subject matter broadly recited in independent claims 1, 5, 7 and 20. Dependent claims 2 – 4, 6, 8 – 19 and 21 – 23 are also rejected at least by virtue of their dependency on independent claims and by other reason set forth in this office action.

Accordingly, the rejection for the pending Claims 1 – 23 is respectfully maintained.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

9. Claims 1 – 7, 11, 18 – 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Bellemore et al. (U.S. Patent Number 5,944,825, hereinafter “Bell”).

Regarding Claim 1, Bell teaches and describes a method of securely supporting password change (Bell Fig. 1 – 5; Summary and Column 3 line 29 – Column 7 line 19), comprising:

- detecting an occurrence of a password change operation in execution on a system (Bell Column 4 lines 5 – 37);

- detecting a new password when provided (Bell Column 4 lines 33 – 40); and,
- storing data indicative of the new password in a database other than the password database associated with the password change operation for later retrieval, the data indicative of the new password for use in providing the new password provision to the system automatically (Bell Column 4 lines 33 – 42 and Column 6 line 66 – Column 7 line 16).

Regarding Claim 5, Bell teaches and describes a method of securely supporting password change (Bell Fig. 1 – 5; Summary and Column 3 line 29 – Column 7 line 19), comprising:

- detecting a change password operation in execution on a system for changing a first password (Bell Column 4 lines 5 – 37);

- displaying to a user a prompt for a new password in response to detecting the change password operation in execution and other than occurring as an operation of the change password operation (Bell Column 3 lines 29 – 52 and Column 4 lines 33 – 40);

- receiving the new password (Bell Column 4 lines 33 – 40);

performing an operation to change the password to the new password in the system (Bell Column 4 lines 33 – 40 and Column 6 lines 1 – 22); and,

storing the new password in a database independent of the change password operation and independent of a database where at least a changed password is stored by the change password operation (Bell Column 6 lines 11 – 36).

Regarding Claim 7, Bell teaches and describes a method of securely supporting password change (Bell Fig. 1 – 5; Summary and Column 3 line 29 – Column 7 line 19), comprising:

detecting a password change operation in execution on a system (Column 4 lines 5 – 37);

displaying to a user a prompt for authentication information in response to detecting the change password operation in execution and other than occurring as an operation of the change password operation (Bell Column 3 lines 29 – 52 and Column 4 lines 33 – 40);

receiving the authentication information (Bell Column 4 lines 20 – 33 and Column 5 lines 47 – 53);

when the authentication information is indicative of a known user, performing an operation to change the password of the known user to a new password in the system (Bell Column 4 lines 33 – 42; Column 5 lines 54- 59 and Column 6 line 66 – Column 7 line 13); and,

storing the new password in a database independent of the change password operation and of the database where at least a changed password is stored (Bell Column 6 lines 11 – 36 and Column 7 lines 4 – 19).

Regarding Claim 20, Bell teaches and describes a method of securely supporting a password change (Bell Fig. 1 – 5; Summary and Column 3 line 29 – Column 7 line 19), comprising:

detecting a password change operation in execution on a system having a known user authorized thereon (Bell Column 4 lines 5 – 37);

automatically generating a new password in response to detecting the password change operation and other than occurring as an operation of the change password operation (Bell Column 1 lines 11 – 34 and Column 7 lines 4 – 19);

performing an operation to change the password to a new password in the system (Bell Column 4 lines 33 – 42; Column 5 lines 54- 59 and Column 6 line 66 – Column 7 line 13); and,

storing the new password in a database independent of the change password operation and of the database where at least a changed password is stored (Bell Column 6 lines 11 – 36 and Column 7 lines 4 – 19).

Claim 2 is rejected applied as above in rejecting Claim 1. Furthermore, Bell teaches and describes a method of securely supporting password change (Bell Fig. 1 – 5; Summary and Column 3 line 29 – Column 7 line 19), wherein detecting an

occurrence of a change of password operating in execution on a system comprises detecting a new password prompt (Bell Column 4 lines 33 – 37)

Claim 3 is rejected applied as above in rejecting Claim 1. Furthermore, Bell teaches and describes a method of securely supporting password change (Bell Fig. 1 – 5; Summary and Column 3 line 29 – Column 7 line 19), comprising the steps of:

prompting a user to provide authorization data, the authorization data being other than the new password (Bell Column 2 lines 34 – 41 and Column 4 lines 33 – 37); and associating the authorization data with the new password (Bell Column 2 lines 34 – 59; Column 4 lines 20 – 42 and Column 7 lines 4 – 19).

Claim 4 is rejected applied as above in rejecting Claim 1. Furthermore, Bell teaches and describes a method of securely supporting password change (Bell Fig. 1 – 5; Summary and Column 3 line 29 – Column 7 line 19), wherein detecting the new password comprises detecting the new password at least two separate times (Bell Column 3 line 56 – Column 4 line 42).

Claim 6 is rejected applied as above in rejecting Claim 5. Furthermore, Bell teaches and describes a method of securely supporting password change (Bell Fig. 1 – 5; Summary and Column 3 line 29 – Column 7 line 19), wherein detecting the change password operation in execution on a system comprises detecting password change command operations (Bell Column 4 line 33 – 37).

Claim 11 is rejected applied as above in rejecting Claim 7. Furthermore, Bell teaches and describes a method of securely supporting password change (Bell Fig. 1 – 5; Summary and Column 3 line 29 – Column 7 line 19), wherein performing an operation to change the password comprises providing the new password to the system (Bell Column 7 lines 5 – 19).

Claim 18 is rejected applied as above in rejecting Claim 7. Furthermore, Bell teaches and describes a method of securely supporting password change (Bell Fig. 1 – 5; Summary and Column 3 line 29 – Column 7 line 19), comprising performing another operation to change another password of known user to the new password (Bell Column 7 lines 5 – 19).

Claim 19 is rejected applied as above in rejecting Claim 7. Furthermore, Bell teaches and describes a method of securely supporting password change (Bell Fig. 1 – 5; Summary and Column 3 line 29 – Column 7 line 19), comprising:

determining within the password database and associated with a same user all passwords identical to the password being changed and automatically performing at least another operation to change each identical password of the known user to the new password (Bell Column 8 line 46 – Column 9 line 9).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

10. Claims 8 – 10 and 12 – 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bellemore et al. (U.S. Patent Number 5,944,825, hereinafter “Bell”) in view of Novoa et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,636,973, hereinafter “Novoa”).

Claim 8 is rejected applied as above in rejecting Claim 7. Furthermore, Bell teaches and describes a method of securely supporting password change (Bell Fig. 1 – 5; Summary and Column 3 line 29 – Column 7 line 19), prompt for authentication information (Bell Column 4 lines 5 – 37). Bell does not teach that the prompt for authentication information is a prompt for biometric information. However, Novoa discloses a biometrics-based password change method for securely changing password includes prompting for authentication information wherein authentication information a prompt for biometric information (Column 4 lines 40 – 63 and Column 5 lines 3 – 43). Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Novoa’s biometric-based password change method into the securely password changing method of Belle’s.

Bell could have been modified by Novoa to arrive at the claimed invention by having the database, security process that are adapted for monitoring and detecting the password change request to request for the authentication information (Bell Column 4 lines 5 – 37) to be biometric information as taught by Novoa (Novoa Column 2 lines 27 – 41 and Column 6 lines 3 – 26). One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to modify Bell by Novoa as discussed above because in a password based system, an unauthorized person who is able to obtain a valid password can still access the system while in a biometric-based system, the user needs both password and biometric information to access the system, thus using biometric authentication information would increase and improve network and system security as taught by Novoa.

Claim 9 is rejected applied as above in rejecting Claim 8. Furthermore, Bell teaches and describes a method of securely supporting password change (Bell Fig. 1 – 5; Summary and Column 3 line 29 – Column 7 line 19), comprising:

providing biometric information (Novoa Column 4 lines 59 – 61 and Column 6 lines 27 – 41);

processing the provided biometric information to provide the biometric data (Novoa Column 6 lines 67 – Column 7 line 65);

comparing the biometric data with a stored template (Novoa Column 7 lines 36 – 65); and

in dependence upon a comparison result retrieving a user password from a database (Novoa Column 7 line 36 – Column 8 line 10).

Claim 10 is rejected applied as above in rejecting Claim 7. Furthermore, Bell teaches and describes a method of securely supporting password change (Bell Fig. 1 – 5; Summary and Column 3 line 29 – Column 7 line 19), wherein the prompt for authentication information prompt for information relating to data stored in a memory of a smart card (Novoa Column 7 lines 29 – 35).

Claim 12 is rejected applied as above in rejecting Claim 7. Furthermore, Bell teaches and describes a method of securely supporting password change (Bell Fig. 1 – 5; Summary and Column 3 line 29 – Column 7 line 19), wherein performing an operation to change the password comprises prompting the user to select between provision of the new password and automatic generation of the new password (Novoa Column 7 lines 1 – 10 and lines 39 – 54).

Claim 14 is rejected applied as above in rejecting Claim 7. Furthermore, Bell teaches and describes a method of securely supporting password change (Bell Fig. 1 – 5; Summary and Column 3 line 29 – Column 7 line 19), wherein performing an operation to change the password comprises automatically generation of the new password (Novoa Column 7 lines 1 – 10 and lines 39 – 54).

Claims 15 and 21 are rejected applied as above in rejecting Claims 13 and 20. Furthermore, Bell teaches and describes a method of securely supporting password change (Bell Fig. 1 – 5; Summary and Column 3 line 29 – Column 7 line 19), wherein the automatically generated new password is unknown to the user (Novoa Column 7 lines 1 – 10 and lines 39 – 54).

Claim 13 is rejected applied as above in rejecting Claim 12. Furthermore, Bell teaches and describes a method of securely supporting password change (Bell Fig. 1 – 5; Summary and Column 3 line 29 – Column 7 line 19), wherein performing an operation to change the password comprises automatically generation of the new password (Novoa Column 7 lines 1 – 10 and lines 39 – 54).

11. Claims 16, 17, 22 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bellemore et al. (U.S. Patent Number 5,944,825, hereinafter “Bell”) in view of Novoa et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,636,973, hereinafter “Novoa”) further in view of Schneier (Bruce Schneier “Applied Cryptography, Second edition; hereinafter “Schneier”).

Claims 16 and 22 are rejected applied as above in rejecting Claims 15 and 21. Furthermore, Bell teaches and describes a method of securely supporting password change (Bell Fig. 1 – 5; Summary and Column 3 line 29 – Column 7 line 19), wherein the automatically generated new password is an encryption key (Bell Column 7 lines 5 –

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19 and Novoa Column 7 lines 1 – 10 and lines 39 – 54 and Column 8 lines 11 – 18).

Bell discloses securely changing password and Novoa discloses automatically generating new password. Even when taken together, Bell and Novoa do not disclose that the newly generated password is an encryption key. However, Schneier teaches that the passwords that are generated using randomly as taught by Novoa can be used as encryption keys (Schneier Pages 173 and 174). Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Novoa's biometric-based password change method into the securely password changing method of Belle's and to use the automatically generated password as an encryption key.

Bell could have been modified by Novoa to arrive at the claimed invention by having the database, security process that are adapted for monitoring and detecting the password change request to request for the authentication information (Bell Column 4 lines 5 – 37) to be biometric information as taught by Novoa (Novoa Column 2 lines 27 – 41 and Column 6 lines 3 – 26) wherein the password is an encryption as taught by Schneier. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to modify Bell by Novoa and Schneier as discussed above because in a password based system, an unauthorized person who is able to obtain a valid password can still access the system while in a biometric-based system, the user needs both password and biometric information to access the system, thus using biometric authentication information would increase and improve network and system security as taught by Novoa wherein the password is an encryption key, as taught by Schneier.

Claims 17 and 23 are rejected applied as above in rejecting Claims 16 and 22. Furthermore, Bell teaches and describes a method of securely supporting password change (Bell Fig. 1 – 5, Summary and Column 3 line 29 – Column 7 line 19) Bell discloses securely changing password and Novoa discloses automatically generating new password (Bell Column 7 lines 5 – 19 and Novoa Column 7 lines 1 – 10 and lines 39 – 54 and Column 8 lines 11 – 18). Even when taken together, Bell and Novoa do not disclose that the new password is encrypted using the encryption key. However, Schneier teaches that the new password is encrypted using the encryption key (Schneier Page 173 and 174). Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Novoa's biometric-based password change method into the securely password changing method of Belle's and to encrypt the password using an encryption key to provide secure password.

Bell could have been modified by Novoa to arrive at the claimed invention by having the database, security process that are adapted for monitoring and detecting the password change request to request for the authentication information (Bell Column 4 lines 5 – 37) to be biometric information as taught by Novoa (Novoa Column 2 lines 27 – 41 and Column 6 lines 3 – 26) wherein the password is encrypted using the encryption key as taught by Schneier. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to modify Bell by Novoa and Schneier as discussed above because in a password based system, an unauthorized person who is able to obtain a valid password can still access the system while in a biometric-based system, the user needs both password and biometric information to access the system, thus using biometric

authentication information would increase and improve network and system security as taught by Novoa wherein the password is encrypted using the encryption key which is difficult to decrypt without the key, as taught by Schneier.

Conclusion

12. THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

13. Examiner's Note: Examiner has cited particular columns and line numbers in the references as applied to the claims above for the convenience of the applicant. Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings in the art and are

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applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply as well. It is respectfully requested from the applicant, in preparing the responses, to fully consider the references in entirety as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the examiner.

14. Applicant is urged to consider the references. However, the references should be evaluated by what they suggest to one versed in the art, rather than by their specific disclosure. If applicants are aware of any better prior art than those are cited, they are required to bring the prior art to the attention of the examiner.


15. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Pramila Parthasarathy whose telephone number is 571-272-3866. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00a.m. To 5:00p.m.. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz Sheikh can be reached on 571-232-3795. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Pramila Parthasarathy

July 10, 2005.


AYAZ SHEIKH
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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